

REMARKS

Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for correcting the numbering of claim 28. Entry of this amendment and the amendments to claims 1, 11, and 20 shown above is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15, 20, 23, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sandstrom et al. (Sandstrom US2002/012237). Claims 2, 12, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Sandstrom in further view of Noro et al. (Noro)(JP 2001-339962). Claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 26, and 27 as obvious under 35 u.s.c. § 103(A) in view of Sandstrom. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

It is first noted that claims 3, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, and 28 were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 10, 19 and 28 recite a limitation that "the central processor calculates the voltage leakage for each of said n electrostatic actuators and capacitors to thereby determine the time said switch is closed." This limitation has been added to claims 1, 11 and 20, the three independent claims in this application. By adding this limitation of control over the voltage leakage to the independent claims, the rejections of these claims has been obviated. Specifically, this amendment in effect rewrites claims 10, 19, and 28 in independent form since they were dependent from claims 1, 11, and 20, respectively.

Sandstrom has been cited as showing large arrays with actuators. Sandstrom does not mention or address the issue of leakage in actuators and capacitors and contains no hint that one might control leakage through a switch regulated by a central processor. For that reason and in accordance with the Examiner's findings of allowability of claims 10, 19, and 28 over Sandstrom, allowance of the amended claims is earnestly solicited. Sandstrom has also been cited against some of the dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Since those claims are dependent on claims 1, 10, and 19, the rejection has been

obviated in view of the allowability of the parent claims. Allowance is respectfully urged.

Noro has been cited against claims 2, 12, and 21, as disclosing a constant voltage signal. While this may be true (or not true) Noro does not recognize voltage leakage from the actuators and capacitors and thus does not overcome the allowability of the parent claims, namely claims 1, 10, and 19. Allowance is earnestly requested.

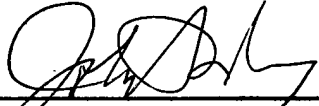
In summary, the claims now pending in this application are deemed to be allowable and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner considers this case ready for conclusion, other than by allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

DATE: December 23, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
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By his Attorney

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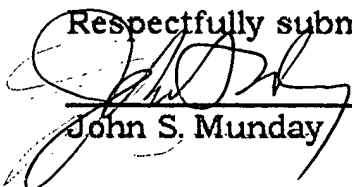


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service and First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop NonFee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on the date appearing below.

DATE: December 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Munday